

The Home Circle.

(From Scribner's Monthly.) Half-way Doin's.

By IAN RUSSELL.

Debbled fellow-travelers—In holdin' forth to-day, I doesn't quote no special verse for what I has to say,



De sermon will be berry short, and dis here am de text. Dat half-way doin's ain't no 'count for dis worl' or de nex'.

Dis worl' dat we's a-lobbin' in is like a cotton-row. Whar ebry culled gentleman has got his time to hoe, And ebry 'tine a lazy nigger stops to take a nap, De grass keeps on a-growin' for to staudder up his crap.

When Moses led de Jews across de waters ob de sea, Dey had to keep a-goin', jus' as fas' as fas' could be; Do you s'pose dat dey could ebber h'ave succeeded in deir wish, And reached de Promised Land at last—if dey had stopped to fish?

My frien's, dar was a garden once, whar Adam libbed wid Eve. Wid no-ose 'round to bodder dem, no neighbors for to love, And 'bery day was Christmas, and dey got deir rations free, And ebrytin' belonged to dem except an apple tree.

You all know 'bout de story—how de snake come an' seduced 'em. A stumpy-tail rusty moccasin, a-crawlin' on de groun'— How Eve and Adam ate de fruit, and went and hid deir face, Till de angel oberseer he come and drove 'em off de place.

Now, s'pose dat man and 'oman hadn't 'tempted for to shirk, But had some about deir garden-in, and 'tended to deir work, Dey wouldn't hab been loatin' whar dey had no business in, And de debbil nobber'd got a chance to tell 'em what to do.

No half-way doin's, bredren! It 'll nobber do, I say! Go at your task and mink it, and deus de time to play. For eben if de crap is good, de rain 'll spile de bolle, Unless you keep a-pickin' in de garden ob your soule.

Keep a-plowin', and a-hoein', and a-scrappin' ob de rows, And when de stantin' ober you can pay up what you owe, But if you quit a-workin' ebry time de sun is hot, De sherrif's gwine to lebbly upon ebrytin' you's got.

Whar'er 'tis you's dribbin' at, be shore and dribe it through, And don't let nuffin' stop you, but do what you's gwine to do; For when you see a nigger foolin' de den, as shore's I you're born, You's gwine to see him comin' out de small end ob de horn.

I thank you for de 'tention you has gib de afternoon— Sister Williams will oblige us by a-rainin' ob a tune— I see dat brother Johnson's 'bout to pass around de hat, And don't let's hab no half-way doin's when it comes to eat!



WEIGHTS OF MEN AND WOMEN.—A recent writer affirms certain interesting facts regarding the relative weights of men and women, from which we condense as follows: The average weights of boys at birth range a little over six pounds and a half, while girls fall a little below this figure. For the first 12 years the two sexes increase in weight in about the same ratio, after which the boys take the decided lead—the result being that young men of 20 average 143 pounds, while the average for young women of the same age is 23 pounds less. Men reach their heaviest bulk at the age of 35, their average at that time being 152 pounds. The maximum of weight is attained by women at 50 years, and is about 128 pounds. The weight of the average man or woman at full growth is about 20 times that at birth.

GETTING A WIFE IN CHINA.—When a gentleman in China feels desirous of taking unto himself a wife he sends to the paternal head of some family containing daughters for specimens of the size of their feet, with prices attached. One foot is valued at perhaps \$2,000, and the next smallest at \$5,000, and so on, according to the market. After the foot, or the lady to whom it belongs is chosen, she is sent in a sedan chair to the intended husband's house. He meets her at the door, looks into the vehicle to take a view of the fair one, and if she suits his taste he admits her. As soon as she passes his threshold she becomes his lawful wife; but if he likes the lady not he shuts the door and she is carried whence she came.

This is how Mary Kyle Dallas says it feels: "Take a man and pin two or three large tableclothes about him, fastened back with elastic and looped up with ribbons; drag all his own hair to the middle of his head and tie it tight, and a big bow of ribbon. Keep the front locks on pins all night and let them tickle his eyes all day; pinch his waist into a corset, and give him gloves a size too small, and shoes ditto, and a hat that will not stay without torturing elastic, and a frill to tickle his chin, and a little lace veil to blind his eyes whenever he goes out to walk, and he will know what a woman's dress is. My!"

A Woman on Agricultural Employment for Women.

The most of our race must expect to remain in the ordinary avocations of life, and it would be very much better were the majority of our people more content with their pursuits. Although it will hardly comport with the idea of propriety common even among the wives and daughters of Western New York farmers and Grangers, yet I will venture to call your attention to certain branches of industry in connection with agriculture, horticulture and kindred vocations which are now followed with pleasure and profit by some ladies in different sections of our great country.

I have lately read of a widow in Colorado who, about seven years ago, had only a tent to live in, with a young daughter. Her sole earthly possessions consisted of a very little furniture, together with two cows and two calves. As usual in that region the cost of keeping her stock was almost nothing. She sold milk at the town close by, and whenever she could spare a few dollars she would buy an extra calf or yearling. By patient continuance in this manner she has prospered, and now owns cattle by the hundreds, rides in her carriage, has educated her daughter, and is worth many thousands of dollars, all the product of her own exertions.

Many others in various sections have started with two or three swarms of bees, and by patient study, inquiry and observation, coupled with industry, they are now among the most successful producers of honey the country affords. Could the two kinds of work just mentioned be combined together with the same good fortune, a land flowing with milk and honey might yet be found in the western hemisphere.

The raising of poultry and eggs for market purposes, if properly conducted, is often very profitable. Now, why is this not also a branch of business peculiarly adapted to women? Of course, like everything else, it requires knowledge, tact and time. Yet it has been well conducted by many and can be done again by others, though the teaching of the old story are still true in that it is not safe to count chickens before they are hatched.

Then there are the small fruits. Surely if a woman wishes an avocation that will bring health and wealth, both of these desirable objects are often found in this employment. The same may be said of gardening and various other kinds of work connected with the cultivation of the soil.

And one of the best features of all these industries is that when she wishes to dispose of her products nobody pays her less for them because she is a woman. The proceeds of her labor amount to precisely the same sum that would be obtained by the lords of creation. In other words, here, and almost nowhere else, she receives equal compensation with man for doing the same work.

TRUE LIVING.—All is not waste that appears so, nor all living injurious that is relatively expensive. So, instead of grumbling about prices, let us remember two things: First, that the price has risen with the outlay. I am now paying \$5,000 a year, it is in most cases, because he can get it to spend. And, secondly, living has become more expensive, not absolutely, but relatively. It stands for a better value. It has risen into the sphere of art. It is, among the sensible part of the community, not a question of display, not of animal gratification, but of education. Given so many dollars' income, how many avenues of mental and moral help will they open? how many pictures will they buy? how many books? how much good society, and generally how much of all that makes life valuable to its possessor? Upon this subject the Cornhill Magazine, of late date, has some sensible suggestions, but upsets all its theory by a concluding sentence, thus: "The person who is best off of all is the literary bachelor." In our judgment he is most to be pitied. A human silk-worm, spinning costly web in which to enshrine an untutored selfishness! No, the true living is that which is broad enough to reach education, family, society, the world, and God.—Interior.

TIED OF CITY LIFE.—A bank President of Worcester, Mass., speaking of Northampton bank robbery, the forgeries of Wislow, and other like items of commercial life, is said to have remarked: "I'm sick of this rascally world. Don't want to see or do business with anybody. I'd rather be an old farmer, living on a cross road, four miles from the right of anybody, with a barrel of cider and two dogs, than to have anything to do with banks, money or men." A great many men long counted successful will echo the like words of Solomon, "All is vanity and vexation of spirit." But all of commercial life is not thus polluted, nor is "the lot of an old farmer living on a cross road, four miles from anybody," quite so unenviable as the bank President's imagination, helped probably by the memory of boyhood days, has pictured it. Farmers well know that there are many and serious evils allotted to their lives; but very possibly this disclosure of envy of their assumed happy lot may make them better satisfied with their vocation, which is entirely the best in some respects.

THE MIGNONETTE.—This is by some supposed to be a distinct variety from the common kind grown in the garden, but it is not. The tree form is due to careful pruning and attention, and there is no variety of mignonette which will assume a tree form without constant care. The way to raise a "tree" mignonette is to sow the seed as usual, and when the plants are about two inches high, select one of the strongest, and plant in a pot or box by itself, and keep it well supported by a stake. Every side branch that appears must be pinched off, but the leaves must be allowed to remain on the main stem as they are needed for the health of the plant. When the plant is about a foot or more in height, the side shoots may be permitted to grow, but they must have their heads pinched off occasionally to force them to form a bushy top. It will take some months to accomplish this, but it will make a beautiful plant.

TALE BEARERS.—Of all the contemptible people in the world the tale bearer wears the honors. Next, and of equal importance, is the man who, under the guise of friendship, bears back to a person every gossiping rumor that floats on the breeze. Many of these stories would die out and be buried in oblivion but for these busy-bodies who run between principals and stir up enmities by bearing back these floating rumors. If every one who hears a rumor derogatory of the character of another, would, without running to the person about whom the story is told and harrowing his feeling with it, and stirring up strife between him and the man who only innocently repeated what he had heard, then much ill feeling would be prevented.

A SENSIBLE woman remarks to the girls, "Look out for physical health and beauty for the sake of the race. Do not bestow a glance on the pale, dyspeptic, cadaverous tipped; shun him as you would a pestilence."

A HARTFORD man wants to sell a farm in which "meandering streams and rivulets permeate luxuriant pastures, while majestic oaks and lately maples attract the eye of the beholder."

Women Lawyers.

The Milwaukee Sentinel prints the full text of the decision of Chief Justice Ryan, of the Supreme court of Wisconsin, refusing to admit Miss Lavinia Goodell to the bar of that court. The court premised by saying: "This is the first application for admission of a female to the bar of this court. And it is just matter for congratulation that it is made in favor of a lady whose character raises no personal objection; something perhaps not always to be looked for in women who forsake the ways of their sex for the ways of ours."

Then, referring to the argument that words in the singular number may be construed plural, and in the plural, singular, and that words of the masculine gender may be applied to females, unless in either case such construction would be inconsistent with the manifest intention of the legislature, he said: "The argument for this motion is simply this, that the application of this permissive rule of construction to a provision applicable in terms to males only has effect, without other sign of legislative intent, to admit females to the bar from which the common law have excluded them ever since courts have administered the common law. This is sufficiently startling. But the argument cannot stop there. Its logic goes far beyond the bar. The same peremptory rule of construction would reach all or nearly all the functions of the State government, would obliterate almost all distinction of sex in one statutory corpus juris, and make females eligible to almost all offices under our state, municipal and State, executive, legislative and judicial, except so far as the constitution may interpose a virile qualification. Indeed, the argument appears to overrule even this exception; for we were referred to a case in Iowa, which unfortunately we do not find in the reports of that State, holding a woman not excluded by the statutory description of 'any white male person.'"

So we find no statutory authority for the admission of females to the bar of any court of this State. And, with all the respect and sympathy for this lady which all men owe to all good women, we cannot regret that we do not. We cannot but think that the common law was in excluding women from the profession of the law. The woman enters largely into the well being of society, and to be honorably filled and a fully to society exacts the devotion of life. The law of nature de-fines and qualifies the female sex for the bearing and nurture of the children of our race and for the custody of the homes of the world and their maintenance in love and honor. And all life-long callings of women consistent with these social duties of their sex, as is the profession of the law, are departures from the order of nature, and, when voluntary, treason against it. The cruel chances of life sometimes afflict both sexes, and may leave women free from the peculiar duties of their sex. These may need employment and should be welcomed to any not degrading to their sex and its properties, or inconsistent with the good order of society. But it is public policy to provide for the sex, not for its superfluous members; and not to tempt women from the proper duties of their sex by opening to them duties peculiar to men. There are many employments in life not suited for female character. The profession of the law is surely not one of these. The peculiar qualities of womanhood, its gentle grace, its quick sensibility, its tender susceptibility, its purity, its delicacy, its emotional impulses, its subordination of hard reason to sympathetic feeling, are surely not qualifications for the legal strife. Nature has tempered woman for a life for the judicial confines of the court room as for the physical conflicts of the battle field. Womanhood is modified for gentler and better things. And it is not the saints of the world who chiefly give employment to our profession. It has essentially and habitually to do with all that is selfish and extortionate, knavish and criminal course and brutal, repulsive and obscene in human life. * * * This is bad enough for men.

HOME INFLUENCE.—If a father talks "money, money," at home he generally rears a family in worship of the almighty dollar. If he talks mainly horses, games and races, he breeds a batch of sportsmen. If fashion is the family altar, then the children are offered up as victims upon that altar. If a man makes his own fireside attractive, he may reasonably hope to anchor his own children around it. The good father makes himself the constant evanescent companion of his boys. The result is that his boys are never found in bad places. But if the father hears the clock strike 11 in his clubhouse or the play-house, he need not be surprised if his boys hear it strike 12 in the gaming room or the drinking saloon. If he puts the bottle on his own table, he need not wonder if a drunken son staggers in, by-and-by, at his front door. When the best friend that childhood and youth ought to have becomes their foe, the home becomes the "starting post" for moral ruin.

MR. CHALMERS beautifully says: The little I have seen in the world and known of mankind teaches me to look upon their errors in sorrow, not in anger. When I take the history of one poor heart that has sinned and suffered, and represent to myself the struggles and temptations it passed through—the brief pulsations of joy, the tears of regret, the teebleness of purpose, the scorn of the world that has little charity, the desolation of the soul's sanctuary and threatening voices within, health gone, happiness gone—I would fain leave the erring soul of my fellow-being with him from whose hands it came.

HARD TO DECIDE.—A very knotty question has been raised at Toulouse, France. An oyster opener of that place, in filling a small order for immediate consumption, found in one of the oysters a magnificent pearl worth several thousand dollars. She promptly put the pearl in her pocket, but the person who ordered the oysters insisted that it was his. The claim he makes is that shells, oyster and every thing in the shells belonged to him when he bought the oysters, and he has asked the law courts so to decide.

STEP BY STEP.—Life is made up of little things. He who travels over a continent must go step by step. He who writes a book must do it sentence by sentence; he who learns a science must master it fact by fact—principle by principle. What is the happiness of our life made up of? Little courtesies, little kindnesses, pleasant words, genial smiles, a friendly letter, good wishes and good deeds. One in a million, once in a life time, may do a heroic action; but the little things that make up our life come every day and every hour.

DAUGHTER AND MILKMAID.—It is an interesting fact that our word daughter, when traced back, through the Greek daughter, to its source in the Sanscrit dukhtri, is found to be equivalent to milkmaid, showing that it was the duty of the Indian maidens to milk the cows. It was no doubt considered a highly honorable office, since the cow, the most valuable animal to a pastoral people, soon came to be endowed with supernatural attributes.

THE SUPREME COURT at Washington refuses to recognize female attorneys, although cases in charge of women attorneys have been sent up from the inferior courts.

Home-Made Furniture.

A lady in the Floral Cabinet says that to hear one talk about home-made furniture the idea is conveyed that nothing can be made of boxes, half-barrels, etc., that will look genteel enough to be called by the name of furniture. Now, kind reader, don't be disgusted. I have seen common goods-boxes converted into handsome bureaus and stands; and they are so cheap and yet so convenient that I will tell you how to make them. To make a pretty dressing stand for a bedroom take a box 3 1/2 feet long, 18 inches wide and 18 inches deep—longer if desired. Cover it smoothly with dark brown cloth. Set it up lengthwise, with the open side to the wall. The interior will hold many things. Shelves can be put up if desired. Have a light frame work made and painted dark brown—then varnished. Attach this to the back part of the box, and by means of screws put a mirror firmly in the frame work. Make a covering of cloth a shade lighter or darker than the other; sew it around the top of the box—this gives it a finish. It is pretty, as well as useful, and nobody would ever suspect its having been a goods-box once in its time. Another good way to utilize a large box: Cover it all around with dark green cambric (or, if you think green is poisonous, use brown,) leaving the open side of the box up. The cover should be fastened on one side of the box, so as to raise like a trunk lid. The top of this is to be padded—the outside covering should be dark cloth. This, in an upper chamber, is very convenient for holding wearing apparel, bed-clothes, etc.

Good cupboards can be made of large boxes. Put shelves inside, and nail a strip around the top of the box so as to extend three or four inches above the level; this will prevent articles from sliding off. The whole is to be painted a good dark color. This, in the kitchen, if not used for holding dishes, will hide so many things that after awhile you will think it indispensable. Small boxes make nice foot-stools. Stuff the top, which serves as a lid to the box, thus making it doubly useful—good for holding old newspapers, rags, etc. A whole set of these will be found useful. In the sitting room they make good seats for the children. Small boxes are also nice to hold winter flowers. Take them about 12 inches deep, 18 inches long, by 12 wide (larger if desired), and paint them white. The pure white boxes, with the green leaves so fresh above them, make a beautiful contrast. Keep near a door or window.—Michigan Farmer.

WOMAN'S NATURE.—At the lower end of Woodward avenue yesterday an old apple woman offered her fruit to a vessel captain who was sighting over the good times of 1861. She wanted three cents apiece for her apples. He gave her a pleasant look and said: "Well, well. Why you look as young as you did ten years ago. Same bright eyes and red cheek—same white teeth." "Take an apple for two cents, Captain," she replied. "I presume you are 50 years old," he continued, "but who'd know it? Lots of ladies at 30 look as old as you do." "Take an apple for a cent, Captain," she answered, smiling like a rose. "Some rich old fellow will come along some day, searching for a uxorious wife," said the Captain, "and you won't have to peddle apples any more." "Here, Captain, two for a cent, take two of the biggest!" she exclaimed, and then ran after him and dropped two more into his overcoat.—Detroit Free Press.

MANY HOUSEKEEPERS make a mistake in having no established system of doing their work. They worry and are wearied far more than is necessary, because they do not plan the work of the week judiciously, when, if each day had its allotted duties—washing, ironing, cleaning, mending, sweeping, cooking, and then the rest on the Lord's day—they would be astonished at the amount of leisure they would find for sewing, reading, writing and music which so many often neglect when the days seem full of other work.

HORACE GREENEY once said: "There is nothing easier in this wicked world than to edit a blackguard paper, and nothing more difficult than to get up a newspaper free from foulness and blackguardism. Fish-women and bar-room loafers are skilled in the art of bandying epithets and b-spattering each other with dirty words—it requires no brains to do this, but it does require both heart and brains to print a newspaper that decent man or woman can read without a blush."

A FUNNY story is told of two Vermont farmers who are not Grangers. They induced their wives to join and report before they would submit themselves. Now, when they will they cannot. Two black balls greet every application. Meanwhile the wives go regularly and triumphantly to every meeting of the Grange and the men stay at home and mind the babies.

A HOLY silence hath its influence upon all o'er's grace; it causes the roses of grace to bud and blossom forth.

It has been found that in nearly every civilized country the tree that bears the most fruit for market is the ash-tree.

A NEW ANTI INCORUSTATOR.—A new anti-incrustator has lately been introduced under the name of apparatus, which is prepared by stirring up 16 parts of potato starch in 76 parts of water, and then adding eight parts of potash or soda lye, at 25 deg. Baume, the whole to be thoroughly mixed together. In a short time the mixture forms a thick jelly, and it is then best used vigorously for a time, when it forms a colorless, transparent substance, slightly alkaline to the taste, and of a strong glue-like consistency. It dries slowly in the air, without decomposition, and when perfectly dry resembles horn, but is more flexible. When introduced in small quantity into steam boiler, it prevents their incrustation. It is also capable of nearly all the applications of ordinary gelatine, and is especially adapted for sizing textile goods of all kinds, imparting to them a high and unattained smoothness. When applied to goods and dried it is perfectly insoluble, as three or four washings in hot water have proved to have no effect upon it. It can also be used as a thickening in calico printing. Several of the textile journals speak of this substance as a very important addition to the resources of the manufacturer and dyer. Care must be taken to retain it in air-tight vessels until it is used, as it is not easily rendered soluble again when it once becomes hard.

RUSTING OF IRON.—It has generally been supposed that the rusting of iron depends principally upon moisture and oxygen. It would appear, however, from the late Dr. Calvert's experiments, that carbonic acid is the principal agent, and without this the other agencies have very little effect. Iron does not rust at all in dry oxygen, but little in moist oxygen, while it rusts very rapidly in a mixture of moist carbonic acid and oxygen. If a piece of bright iron be placed in water saturated with oxygen, it rusts very little; but if carbonic acid be present, oxidation goes on so fast that a dark precipitate is produced in a very short time. It is said that bright iron placed in a solution of caustic alkali does not rust at all. The inference to be derived is that, by the exclusion of moist carbonic acid from contact with iron, rust can be very rapidly prevented.

Young Folks' Column.

Baby's Skies. Would you know the baby's skies? Baby's skies are mamma's eyes. Mamma's eyes are smiles together. Make the baby's pleasant weather. Mamma, keep your eyes from tears, Keep your heart from foolish fears, Keep your lips from dull complaining, Let the baby think 'tis raining.—St. Nicholas.

About Fear.

COME, children, cluster around and hear what Nell Van has to say to you about fear. When she was a child, which you would think was a very long time ago, she was afraid of the dark, she was afraid to be left alone, in fact she was afraid of her own shadow. Are little folks as foolish now-a-days, I wonder? Fear is one of the greatest troubles of childhood and it sometimes clings to people as long as they live. Some children who might never have known what it was, have had it taught them like the little boy I once knew who was taken up to bed every night by a thoughtless servant. While undressing he was told to lay his clothes upon a chair at a distance from the light, and when crossing the room the wicked creature would call out, "Run for fear the bears will catch you." The little fellow would scamper with fright and would not easily go to sleep after that. The child's mother was told and the servant well scolded, but the mischief was done and the boy suffered in consequence for many a night afterwards from imaginary danger.

When children are afraid they rarely can tell you what they are afraid of. With vivid imaginations they picture to themselves all sorts of impossible things. In going down stairs they will say to themselves, "what if a big lion or a tiger was after me," and without stopping to consider how unreasonable such an idea is, they plunge in terror down the stairway and into the light. Now, these children surely know that we are not likely to have wild animals running loose about our dwellings, and by thus using the reasoning faculties they can overcome such foolish fears. Some parents govern their children by fear. Instead of enforcing obedience through love, they threaten with punishment for disobedience. A child soon learns by the tone of the voice whether it is expected to obey promptly, and if trained to obey on the instant it is rarely necessary to resort to violence.

The days of corporal punishment and brute force are passing away, it is to be hoped, for the most enlightened parents and teachers find a better way to enforce submission than through fear of the rod. I have seen a mother teaching her two little girls to sew with a switchy before her upon the table. From time to time, as the tired fingers idled or the attention was diverted from their work, harsh words and blows were given to remind them of their task. The result was those children grew up to hate useful employment and quarreled continually because the rebellious part of their nature was ever uppermost.

Fear to do wrong always, but never frighten yourselves or others unnecessarily. Nervous children are sometimes frightened into fits which affect their minds for life. Never cause yourself to suffer remorse by doing such injury to any human being. And now each one of you strive all you can to overcome this bug-bear Fear.

GOOD HABITS.—Remember, boys, before you are 21 you must establish a character that will serve you through all your life. As habits grow stronger every year, any turning into a new path is more and more difficult; therefore it is often harder to unlearn than to learn, and on this account a famous flute player used to charge double prices to those pupils who had been taught before by a poor master. Try and reform a lazy, untrifling or drunken person, and in most cases you fail; for the bad habit, whatever it is, has so wound itself into life that it cannot be uprooted. The best habit of all is the habit of care in the formation of good habits.

ONE DROP AT A TIME.—Have you ever watched an icicle as it formed? You noticed how it froze, one drop at a time, until it was a foot long or more. If the water was clear, the icicle remained clear and sparkling brightly in the sun; but if the water was but slightly muddy, the icicle looked foul, and its beauty was spoiled. Just so our characters are forming; one little thought or feeling at a time adds its influence. If each thought be pure and right, the soul will be lovely and sparkle with happiness; but if impure and wrong, there will be wretchedness.

THAT "EXERCISE."—Answers still continue to come in in answer to the "Exercise" propounded by our Eastern correspondent in this department some three or four weeks ago.

A Suggestion for the Centennial.

Our London exchange, Iron, makes the following suggestion for mechanical progress at the Centennial. It says: The question of the best form for the interior of the blast furnace has not of late years occupied so prominent a place in metallurgical discussions as it deserves. Advantage might be taken of the forthcoming Exhibition at Philadelphia to secure much valuable information, which it would be beyond the power of any individual, or even an association, to obtain at any other time, but which, once collected, would be of the greatest service to metallurgy all industry. It is not, even now, too late for the commissioners of England, Germany, France and Austria, in conjunction with the American Centennial authorities, to invite by circular the leading metallurgical firms of their respective countries to furnish, in a specified form, such detailed particulars, illustrated as far as possible by plans, of the working of the plant and processes under their control, as they may feel disposed to give. Such information from reliable sources would at once set at rest many vexed questions, which would otherwise only be tardily solved at an enormous cost of unproductive labor and wasted material. That we ourselves have much to learn from the best Continental and American practice, is not less true than that in many points we are in advance of our neighbors. Not the least important feature in such a programme would be the collection of a series of internal sections of blast furnaces blown out for repairs or other causes (of which there are unfortunately just now only too many). Accompanying these fire-shaped sections would be drawings of the original contour, with full details of the charges used, and the working immediately before the stoppage, and at different periods of the campaign. Such returns would form a solid basis for subsequent progress, and would materially advance that which should be the leading object of a true world show—the growth of technical knowledge. Failing its adoption by official representatives, we commend the idea to such bodies as the various societies of engineers, the American Institute of mining engineers, and our own Iron and Steel Institute.